(a) whether the problem of starvation and malnutrition in women and children has compounded over the last three years and whether the country has more number of children and women suffering from malnutrition than African countries;

(b) whether the benefits of Government schemes are not reaching the starving and undernourished people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) Incidence of hunger, estimated from National Sample Survey (NSS) data for 2004-05 in terms of households having inadequate food is 1.9%.

As per latest UNICEF Report 'Tracking Progress on Child and Maternal Nutrition', the prevalence of underweight among children is higher in Asia than in Africa.

As per National family Health Survey (NFHS), the prevalence of under nutrition has decreased from 42.7% (NFHS-2, 1998-99) to 40.4% (NFHS-3, 2005-06). The reduction in under nutrition in children indicate that Government schemes do have some positive results.

The Government accords high priority to overall issue of malnutrition, and particularly, in respect of children, adolescent girls and women. However, malnutrition is a complex problem, the determinants of which include food insecurity, female illiteracy, poor access to health services, safe drinking water, sanitation and poor purchasing power. Early marriages of girls, teenage pregnancies resulting in low birth weight of the newborns, poor breastfeeding and poor complementary feeding practices, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections further aggravate the situation.

The various schemes being implemented by different Ministries which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of children are given in the statement. [Refer to statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 2764 Part (c)].

Scheme for welfare of working children

2769. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the genesis and objective of the scheme for welfare of working children in need of care and protection;

(b) the number of working children in the country, State-wise;

(c) the details of the budget allocations, funds released, number of projects and beneficiaries assisted under this scheme since its inception, State-wise;

(d) the number of shelters for working children, their capacity, State-wise; and

(e) whether the above statistics show that there has been serious under-performance in implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) The 'Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care and Protection' is being implemented from the financial year 2004-05, in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the Writ Petition (Civil) No.465 of 1986 filed by Shri M.C.Mehta against the State of Tamil Nadu & Others. The objective of the scheme is to provide opportunities including non-formal education, vocational training, etc. to working children to facilitate their entry/ re-entry into mainstream education in cases where they have either not attended any learning system or where for some reasons their education has been discontinued, with a view to preventing their continued or future exploitation. The programme lends support to projects in urban areas, not already being covered by the existing schemes of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

(b) The State-wise distribution of working children in the age group of 5-14 years as per census 2001 is available in the Ministry of Labour & Employment's website- www.labour.nic.in.

(c) and (d) The budget allocations, funds released, number of projects and beneficiaries assisted under this scheme are as below:

Year	BE/RE [in lakhs]	Amount released [in lakhs]	Projects assisted	Beneficiaries assisted
2004-05	100.00	7.55	3	296
2005-06	200.00	112.00	18	1800
2006-07	300.00	277.00	49	4900
2007-08	700.00	601.00	78	7800
2008-09	850.00	842.00	109	10900
2009-10 [upto 9.12.09]	700.00	643.88	98	9800

The scheme provides for setting up of composite centres for providing non formal education, vocational training, health care, nutrition, stipend, etc. to 100 working children.

The details of the grants-in-aid released to the Non-Governmental Organizations, number of projects and beneficiaries assisted (State-wise) are available on the Ministry's website- www.wcd.nic.in.

(e) No, Sir. The above statistics do not indicate any serious under performance in the implementation of the scheme.